

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

Applicant thanks Examiner Pham for the indication of allowable matter in the claims 2-10 and 12-19.

SUPPORT FOR THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Support for the claim amendments may be found in claims 1 and 11, as originally filed. Thus, no new matter has been added.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The objection to the drawings is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

The drawings are listed as objected to by the Examiner per box 10 of the Office Action Summary. However, no explanation why the drawings are objected was provided in the Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to either (i) provide an explanation or (ii) withdraw the objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 1, 11 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cernea et al. '964 (hereafter Cernea) in view of Albachten '247 is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

Cernea concerns a method and circuit for simultaneously programming and verifying the programming of selected EEPROM cells (Title). Albachten concerns a system for accessing the same memory location by two different devices (Title).

Claim 1 provides a control circuit configured to (i) set a control latch in response to a detection signal and (ii) reset the control latch in response to a reset signal, wherein the control latch is set while both the detection signal and the reset signal are in an asserted state. Despite the assertion on page 3 of the Office Action, Albachten does not appear to discuss a circuit configured to set a control latch in response to a detection signal and reset the control latch in response to a reset signal. In particular, the flip-flops 58-72, cited in column 4 lines 37-47 and shown in FIG. 3 of Albachten, appear to be set and reset in response to signals originating from multiple circuits. For example, the flip-flop 58 is set with a signal A_WR(3) generated by an A_Interface 28 circuit, as shown in FIG. 2. However, the flip-flop 58 is reset with a signal A_UPDONE generated by an Arbiter 218 circuit, also shown in FIG. 2. Therefore, Albachten appears to contemplate that the flip-flops 58-72 (asserted similar to the claimed latch) are **set by a first circuit** and **reset by a second circuit**, not **set and reset** by the same circuit. Therefore, Cernea and Albachten, alone or in combination, do not appear to teach or suggest a control circuit configured to (i) set a control latch in response to a detection signal and (ii) reset the control latch in response to a reset signal, wherein the

control latch is set while both the detection signal and the reset signal are in an asserted state as presently claimed.

Assuming, *arguendo*, that Albachten somehow teaches a circuit that both sets and resets one of the flip-flops 58-72 (for which Applicant's representative does not necessarily agree), Albachten still appears to be silent regarding setting and resetting a flip-flop in response to a detection type signal and a reset type signal, respectively. As such, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to either (i) clearly identify the signals in Albachten allegedly similar to the claimed detection signal and the claimed reset signal or (ii) withdraw the rejection.

Furthermore, the Office Action fails to provide particular findings as to the reasons a skilled artisan, with no knowledge of the presently claimed invention, would have combined the cited references as suggested in the Office Action. The factual inquiry whether to combine the references must be thorough and searching. The rigorous application of the requirement for showing the teaching or motivation to modify and/or combine the references is necessary to avoid the subtle but powerful attraction of a hindsight-based obviousness analysis. It is improper, in determining whether a person of ordinary skill in the art would have made the proposed combination, simply to use that which the inventor taught against its teacher. In particular, the assertion "so that two devices can access data in a dual port RAM" does not appear to explain why a person of ordinary skill would be motivated

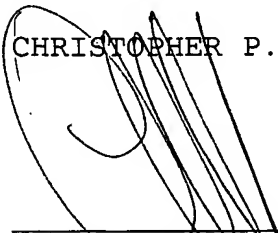
to (i) add the alleged control circuit of Albachten to Cernea and (ii) make the added control circuit responsive to a reset signal generated by a sense amplifier 104 of Cernea. Because the Office Action fails to provide particular findings as to the reasons a skilled artisan, with no knowledge of the presently claimed invention, would have chosen the proposed combination, the Office Action does not appear to have met the Office's burden of factually establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness (MPEP §2142 and §2143.01). Claims 11 and 20 provide language similar to claim 1. As such, claims 1, 11 and 20 are fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit
Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,


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